

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

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ALL OTHER CONGENS IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS CALGARY 0395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: POLAR GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

1. ACCORDING TO SENIOR PANARCTIC OILS OFFICIAL, POLAR GAS CONSORTIUM WILL FILE WITHIN NEXT 60 DAYS AN APPLICATION WITH NEB FOR A 42-INCH PIPELINE TO BRING GAS FROM ARCTIC ISLANDS TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO. PROJECT WILL CALL FOR COMPLETION OF GAS DELIVERY SYSTEM WITH 2.5 BCF/DAY THROUGHPUT BY LATE 1984, BUT APPLICATION WILL NOT BE SPECIFIC WITH RESPECT TO THE PIPELINE'S ROUTING OR FINANCING.

2. THRESHOLD GAS RESERVE NECESSARY FOR THIS DOLS 8-10 BILLION UNDERTAKING IS ESTIMATED AT 20 TCF. ABOUT HALF OF THIS AMOUNT (9.7 TCF) HAS BEEN DISCOVERED ON SABINE PENINSULA OF MELVILLE ISLAND AND ANOTHER 3.5 TCF HAS BEEN LOCATED IN AND AROUND ELLEF RINGNESS AND KING CHRISTIAN ISLANDS. PANARCTIC OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEIR DOLS 66 MILLION 1977-78 EXPLORATION PROGRAM WHICH INVOLVES DRILLING OF NUMBER OF LARGE STRUCTURES OFF MELVILLE, KING CHRISTIAN, AND BATHURST ISLANDS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ADD TO KNOWN ARCTIC ISLANDS GAS RESOURCES AND EXPECT THAT THRESHOLD GAS SUPPLY

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FOR PIPELINE WILL BE REACHED IN NEXT TWO-THREE YEAR PERIOD.

3. EVENTUAL ROUTE AND COST OF PIPELINE WILL BE DETERMINED BY LOCATION OF NEW GAS DISCOVERIES AND NEED, IF ANY, TO CONSTRUCT LINE ACROSS BANKS AND VICTORIA ISLANDS TO MAINLAND AT COPPERMINE TO CONNECT WITH POSSIBLE MACKENZIE DELTA GAS SPUR. MOST FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED POLAR GAS CORRIDOR

INVOLVES PIPELINE FROM MELVILLE ISLAND EASTWARD TO BATHURST AND CORNWALLIS ISLANDS AND THENCE SOUTHWARD TO SOMERSET ISLAND, BOOTHIA PENINSULA, AND ALONG WESTERN SIDE OF HUDSON S BAY TO CONNECTION WITH TRANSCANADA SYSTEM AT LONGLAC, ONTARIO.

4. COMMENT: MEMBERSHIP IN POLAR GAS CONSORTIUM INCLUDES TRANSCANADA PIPELINES LTD., PANARCTIC OILS LTD., ONTARIO ENERGY CORPORATION, PETROCANADA, TENNECO OIL OF CANADA LTD., AND PACIFIC LIGHTING GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY. IF APPROVED BY NEB, PROJECT COULD INVOLVE GAS EXPORTS TO U.S. PANARCTIC OILS IS ALSO INVOLVED IN ARCTIC ISLAND LNG PILOT PROJECT WITH PETROCANADA, ALBERTA GAS TRUNK LINE LTD., AND MELVILLE SHIPPING LTD., TO WHICH IT MUST COMMIT 2 TCF OF ITS MELVILLE ISLAND GAS RESERVES.
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